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## **Rep. Sanfelippo proposing to bolster police officer grant program**

MADISON, Wis. – Crime and drug abuse know no boundaries.

That's why state Rep. Joe Sanfelippo, R-New Berlin, is proposing legislation that provides the opportunity for all municipalities and counties in Wisconsin to receive additional resources to employ more police officers.

Sanfelippo's bill, known as [LRB-4098](#), would bolster the state's Law Enforcement Officer Grants program by increasing overall funding, expanding the list of eligible applicants to include county sheriff's departments and removing the minimum size requirement for eligible communities.

Sanfelippo is looking to add about \$14 million in annual grants by making cuts to other programs that are not as important as public safety. Since no new spending is being requested, only funds equal to the amount of accepted cuts would be allocated for the increased funding.

Municipalities or counties that receive the grants would be required to use the money to hire additional law enforcement officers whose primary duties are beat patrolling. Because every community is different, the grants could also go toward employing specialized law enforcement officers who would focus on drug abuse or other localized issues.

"Crime is no longer limited to urban areas," Sanfelippo said. "Drug abuse and violence are starting to rear their ugly heads in rural communities as well, so we need to make sure police are fully equipped to protect all of our citizens across the state."

The current grant program, administered by the state Department of Justice, awards annual grants to 10 eligible cities that have populations of at least 25,000. Those 10 municipalities shared \$1.22 million in the 2013-14 budget.

[Click here](#) to view a video of Sanfelippo explaining his proposal.

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